

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDNA
MERLE WILKINSON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my mother-in-law, Edna Merle Wilkinson, who passed away May 19th, 2010. I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many outstanding achievements of Merle during her lifetime.

Merle Wilkinson touched the lives of many with dedication and grace. Evidenced since her early childhood, Merle's driven and compassionate nature laid the foundation for a legacy of inspiration to all who knew her.

Merle's drive led her to be awarded the American Legion Award for leadership, courage and academic excellence at her high school in Watsonville, CA. There she was also elected Student Body Secretary, served as the captain of the field hockey team, and was a competitive ice skater. After high school, Merle attended business college and was a legal assistant to the Superior Court Judge in Salinas, CA before marrying her life partner, John E. Wilkinson, the son of the founder of Granite Construction Company Walter J. Wilkinson. Together, Merle and John built the highway and road construction firm into one of the largest companies in its field today.

With great compassion and a heart of service, Merle became known for her community involvement. She was active in the Eastern Star and the Johnny Appleseed Auxiliary where she hosted fundraisers for local charities. Merle was a founder of the Lady Bugs Auxiliary in Stockton, an organization that supports the developmentally disabled, as well as an avid supporter of the American Diabetes Association. Her desire to brighten the lives of others was so strong that, if there was ever a time when Merle could not be found, she was most likely taking casseroles to the families of cancer patients, as she often liked to do.

Merle's greatest source of pride and happiness, though, was her family—her three daughters Susan, Patti and Nancy, and her 12 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren that survive her today. Merle always put family first, and I am forever grateful for her gift of a mother's eternal love.

Madam Speaker, while it is with great sadness, I am truly honored to recognize and pay tribute to a woman who has had such a positively profound impact on my life and the lives of so many others. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in recognizing Merle Wilkinson's lifetime of achievements.

TRIBUTE TO IOWA FIRE CHIEF
LARRY SQUIRES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Marshalltown, Iowa Fire Chief Larry Squires on the occasion of his retirement.

Chief Squires has honorably served with the Marshalltown Fire Department for the past 30 years. During the past three decades, Chief

Squires played an instrumental role in the many changes and improvements in fire protection and EMS delivery throughout the city. Even during his last days as fire chief, Chief Squires is continually looking for ways to improve safety and response times with the suggestion of an additional fire station on the opposite side of town. His forward thinking and dedication to public safety speaks volumes of his job as a public servant who is well respected and loved by the people of Marshalltown.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Chief Squires for his many years of loyalty and service in protecting the community of Marshalltown. It is an immense honor to represent Chief Squires in Congress, and I wish all the best to him as he embarks on this next chapter in life.

RESETTLEMENT OF INTERNALLY
DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS) IN
SRI LANKA

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the first anniversary of the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka. President Rajapaksa promised to promote reconciliation on the island and resettle Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

One year after the end of the war, there are still over 90,000 people who remain in detention and transit centers, including many women and children. Not only have they not been able to return to their homes, but they still don't have access to basic necessities. Food and medical care are scarce, and international aid organizations are still not allowed into many northern areas occupied by Tamils.

The Sri Lankan government should immediately begin resettling IDPs in their original homes. They must be allowed to return to their families, livelihoods, schools, and places of worship. Addressing humanitarian needs and protecting the basic human rights of all Sri Lankans should be the top priority of the Rajapaksa government.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE NOGUCHI MU-
SEUM ON THE OCCASION OF ITS
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Noguchi Museum. Isamu Noguchi was one of the twentieth century's most influential and critically acclaimed Japanese-American sculptors. The museum, which he established and designed, is considered by many to be one of his greatest achievements. It is also the first museum in the United States to be founded by a living artist in his lifetime.

Noguchi's innovation is evident in the museum's construction. He converted a 1920s

photo-engraving plant in Long Island City into a two-story, 27,000 square foot exhibition space divided into ten galleries, along with a serene sculpture garden. The museum houses the world's largest and most extensive collection of Noguchi's work, including his complete archives. There is a comprehensive selection of his sculptures in stone, metal, wood, and clay, as well as drawings, models for public projects and gardens, stage sets, furniture, and his Akari Light Sculptures.

An internationalist, Noguchi drew inspiration from his extensive world travels. This influence is evident in the materials and techniques he chose to use in his projects. Noguchi believed in the social role of sculpture and created public works all over the world including a playground in Japan, a plaza in Texas, a garden in Paris, a fountain in New Orleans and this museum in Long Island City. He did not belong to any particular movement; often his choices reflect his commitment to creating art around public spaces.

Through his collaborations with international artists, Noguchi became fluent in a range of different media and schools and set a new standard for artistic achievement. The museum repays his debt to the international community, by organizing traveling exhibitions and loaning works to other institutions for special exhibitions. It serves as an international center for the study and interpretation of Noguchi's vision, life, and the influence of his work on later artists.

The museum's steadfast commitment to education is reflected in the myriad of public and academic programs and tours offered to children, teens, and adults of all ages. Particularly popular are the "Second Sundays" series, which convene renowned experts in art, architecture, and design to explore a variety of timely topics and complement the museum's mission and exhibits, and the summer "Music in the Garden" series. Other programs vary from panel discussions to curators' talks, artist-led gallery tours, and poetry readings.

The Noguchi Museum recently underwent a renovation which has not only preserved the artist's vision, but has better enabled its facilities to meet the needs of its ever expanding audience.

Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to all the friends, family and supporters of the Noguchi Museum on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary.

REMEMBERING JOAN SUE HUEY

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Joan Sue Huey. Joan Huey was born on September 29, 1928 in a small farming village in China. In 1947, she married her life's love, Albert Huey, who served in the United States Army during World War II. In 1948 they welcomed the birth of their son, Dennis. They immigrated to the United States in 1951, settling in San Francisco to seek a better life for their growing family, which by then included two beautiful daughters, Dora and Diana.

Throughout the years, Joan juggled the hectic duties of being a wife and mother. She